

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0464

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: PRC PROPOSALS FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT

REF: A) STATE 053539 (B) PEKING 0457

SUMMARY: MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR HSIAO TEH HAS PROPOSED THAT ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION VISIT UNITED STATES FOR SIX MONTHS, DECEMBER 8 TO JUNE 7. EXHIBIT CAN BE STAGED IN ONE OR TWO CITIES DEPENDING ON OUR PREFERENCE. AGREEMENT WILL BE HANDLED BY "EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS" SINCE TWO COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM HOLDRIDGE AND ANDERSON ON MARCH 19 MET WITH HSIAO TEH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT. HSIAO BEGAN BY NOTING THAT CANADIAN AGREEMENT NOW SIGNED AND PRC WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. UNLIKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, WHICH INCLUDED A STATE-TO-STATE AGREEMENT AND A PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS, PRC PROPOSES IN THIS CASE AN EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS TO BE SIGNED ON PRC SIDE BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER AND ON U.S. SIDE BY CHIEF OF LIAISON OFFICE. CONTENTS OF TWO DOCUMENTS WOULD COVER ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS AS CONTAINED IN STATE-TO-STATE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

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2. HSIAO NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAD LAST YEAR REQUESTED THE EXHIBITION REMAIN IN U.S. FOR LONGER THAN IN OTHER COUNTRIES. RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION HAD CONSIDERED THIS REQUEST IN LIGHT OF OVERALL PLAN FOR RETURNING EXHIBIT TO CHINA. ONE FACTOR TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WAS NATURAL DETERIORATION OF SOME OF THE ARTICLES. HSIAO NEVERTHELESS THEN PROPOSED AN EXHIBITION IN THE U.S. OF "ABOUT SIX MONTHS" FROM DECEMBER 8, 1974 TO JUNE 7, 1975. EXHIBIT COULD BE MOUNTED IN ONE CITY ONLY, HE SAID, IN WHICH CASE A FULL SIX MONTHS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. IF U.S. SIDE CHOOSES, HOWEVER, EXHIBIT COULD BE SHOWN IN TWO CITIES, IN WHICH CASE EACH SHOWING WOULD BE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THREE MONTHS TO ALLOW FOR PACKING AND SHIPPING TIME IN BETWEEN.

3. HSIAO DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS PRESENTATION TO EMPHASIZING THE QUESTION OF SECURITY FOR THE EXHIBIT. PRC WILL WANT USG TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF THE EXHIBIT, BUT EXACT MEASURES WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED CAN BE DISCUSSED ORALLY. INDEMNIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARTICLES DESTROYED OR DAMAGED WILL BE SIMILAR TO THOSE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. PRC HAS PREPARED A LIST OF ITEMS IN EXHIBIT WITH VALUATION OF EACH. IF DAMAGE TO AN ARTICLE ONLY PARTIAL, A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL COST CAN BE AGREED UPON. IF A TOTAL LOSS THROUGH NEGLIGENCE, US MUST PAY FULL COST. IN CASE OF "FORCE MAJEUR, I.E. AIRCRAFT CRASH, WAR OR EARTHQUAKE, U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR FIFTY PERCENT OF TOTAL LOSS. HSIAO AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT MANY ITEMS IN THE EXHIBIT ARE PRICELESS AND IRREPLACEABLE, BUT THAT COSTS DETERMINED BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE U.S.

4. ON TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS, CANADA WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTING EXHIBIT TO U.S. U.S. WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INTERNAL TRAVEL AND FOR RETURNING EXHIBIT TO CHINA ON CONCLUSION OF U.S. TOUR. (HOLDRIDGE ASCERTAINED THAT EXHIBIT WILL IN FACT TRAVEL DIRECTLY BACK TO CHINA FOLLOWING U.S. SHOWING.) HSIAO NOTED THAT COSTS FOR SHIPPING EXHIBIT FROM CANADA FAR LESS THAN RETURN TRANSPORTATION TO CHINA, BUT ADDED

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THAT LENGTH OF STAY IN U.S. A FACTOR IN THIS ARRANGEMENT. INTERNALLY, CHINA PREFERS AIR SHIPMENT, BUT WILL AGREE TO SURFACE SHIPMENT BY TRUCK DEPENDING ON DISTANCE TO BE TRAVELLED AND TIME INVOLVED. (HSIAO POINTED OUT THAT NORMAL SHIPMENT TIME IN EUROPE BETWEEN EXHIBITION SITES HAS BEEN ONE DAY OR LESS.) RETURN SHIPMENT TO CHINA MUST BE BY AIR IN TWO AIRCRAFT. HSIAO EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF SPACE REQUIREMENTS

BUT A SECURITY MEASURE AND HAD BEEN FOLLOWED IN ALL PREVIOUS SHIPMENTS.

5. HSIAO SAID THAT NORMALLY THREE PRC REPRESENTATIVES ACCOMPANY THE EXHIBIT, BUT DUE TO LENGTH OF STAY IN U.S. AND FACT THAT IT MAY GO TO TWO CITIES, PRC PLANS TO SEND FOUR OR, AT MAXIMUM, FIVE PEOPLE TO U.S. HE POINTED THIS OUT BECAUSE INTERNAL EXPENSES FOR PRC REPRESENTATIVES ARE RESPONSIBILITY OF U.S. SIDE.

6. ASKED ABOUT CHINESE VIEWS ON U.S. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION, HE SAID PRC PREFERS THAT ONE ORGANIZATION ACT AS HOST FOR EXHIBITION AND SIGN PROTOCOL. SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOL WILL BE DIRECTLY BETWEEN TWO SPONSORING GROUPS AND PRC WOULD PREFER THAT SIGNING TAKE PLACE IN PEKING RATHER THAN U.S. HSIAO SAID PRC FOUND CANADIAN ARRANGEMENT FOR SIGNATURE OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT IN PEKING AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS IN OTTAWA RATHER CUMBERSOME. HSIAO LEFT IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT HE FELT USLO COULD PROBABLY SIGN ON BEHALF OF HOST ORGANIZATION.

7. HOLDRIDGE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRC'S OFFER OF SIX-MONTH TOUR INCLUDING TWO CITIES. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT PRC PROPOSALS AND REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.

8. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL TO BRIEF CANADIANS ON PRC PROPOSALS IN VIEW OF THEIR VERY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE DURING THEIR NEGOTIATIONS.

9. COMMENT: WE FIND THE PRC OFFER TO SEND THE EXHIBIT TO THE U.S. FOR SIX MONTHS AND AGREEMENT TO TWO CITIES FORTHCOMING AND POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT. CHINESE
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CLEARLY ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF SENDING THE EXHIBIT FROM CANADA AS IS, AND WE STRONGLY FEEL THAT WE SHOULD NOW DROP FURTHER REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ARTICLES FOR FOR A STILL LONGER STAY IN U.S. AS THIS WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO CHINESE STONE-WALLING AND NULLIFY THE ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD WILL WHICH THEY EVIDENTLY WISH TO CREATE. IN VIEW OF CHINESE PROPOSALS, WE ALSO RECOMMEND AN INITIAL RESPONSE BY OUR SIDE AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE.
JENKINS

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